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U.S. Hints Admittance Of Chinese Defector

A broad hint that the United States is not nearly so "mystified" as it was reported to be about the disappearance of a Chinese Communist diplomat who defected to the U. S. Embassy in Burundi was detectable between the lines of an official statement here yesterday.

News reports from the Central African nation on Friday said 24-year-old Tung Ching, who took refuge in the U. S. Embassy there on May 26, had "vanished."

The U. S. reportedly had been trying to arrange Tung's departure from the country but the Burundi government, under heavy pressure from the Chinese Communists, had attempted to block such a move.

American officials in Burundi had said they had no explanation for Tung's disap-

pearance from his room in the Embassy.

But yesterday a State Department spokesman offered a deliberately mysterious half-explanation.

In answer to questions, the spokesman said Tung voluntarily entered the Embassy on May 26 for assistance "in obtaining political asylum in the United States."

"He was granted temporary asylum in the chancery building," the spokesman continued, "to protect him from Chinese Communist reprisals. He has now left the Embassy by his own choice."

"I am not prepared to say anything more at this time."

In diplomatic parlance, the statement carries the strong implication that the United States not only knows where Tung is now, but that he may have obtained political asylum in the United States.